THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The Government has recently increased national floor level wage to Rs. 50/- per day *w.e.f.* 1.9.2002. All the State Governments have been requested in October 2002 to ensure that in none of the scheduled employments the minimum wage is below the national floor level wage.

(b) The State Governments furnish information relating to fixation/ revision of minimum wages regularly. The State Governments are advised to revise the minimum wages whenever the wages are found to be less than the national floor level wage.

(c) Since the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, does not stipulate any standard methodology for fixation of minimum wages, the norms recommended by the Indian Labour Conference, 1957 and subsequent Judicial pronouncement are taken into account while fixing the minimum wages. The norms include requirements of food, clothing, rent, fuel, lighting, children's education, recreation, marriage, old age etc. Once the minimum wage is fixed, the employers are bound under the provisions of the Act to pay to the workers the minimum wage so fixed.

Setting up of Efficiency Development Fund for unorganised sector

†999. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up an Efficiency Development Fund (EDF) to increase efficiency of the employees of the unorganized sector; and

(b) if so, the provisions made to set up the development fund by Government alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no such proposal under consideration of Government.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.